



27 June 2025

Executive Headteacher - Ms N Sheppard
Head of School - Miss K Begley

Dear Parent/Carers

It is that bittersweet time of the year when I make plans to hand over the responsibility of the year 7s to another Head of Year.

My role every year is to support the transition from year 6 to year 7 and remain a static Head of Year. It is so rewarding to witness the incredible journey year 7s go on as they navigate secondary school life and thrive.

When they started with us I asked them all to open their minds to new experiences and fully immerse themselves into everything Carisbrooke College has to offer. They did just that and I could not be more proud of them. I am so pleased with how much progress has been made and how they have grown in confidence. Each individual has overcome their own challenges and come out the other side as an incredible young person who is ready to take on the challenges and experiences that year 8 will bring.

From Monday 30 June 2025 the new Head of Year 7 will be Mrs McDowall. Her email address is: nikki.mcdowall@carisbrooke.iow.sch.uk. Both Mrs McDowall and I will be in the assembly on the morning of 30 June to help students with understanding how things are going to change.

A few words from Mrs McDowall

It is both an honour and a privilege to take on this role, and I am genuinely excited to begin working closely with your children and supporting them throughout this important stage in their school journey. My aim as Head of Year is to ensure that every student in [Year 7, going into 8] feels supported, motivated, and challenged to achieve their very best – both academically and personally.

In addition to overseeing academic progress, I place a strong emphasis on wellbeing, positive behaviour, and creating a sense of community within the year group. I believe communication between school and home is essential, and I look forward to building strong, open relationships with you.

I will be working alongside our dedicated team of tutors and staff to provide consistent guidance, encouragement, and care. If you have any concerns, questions, or would simply like to introduce yourself, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above email address.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Lythgoe

Mrs McDowall

